



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

October 23, 2013

VIA U.S. MAIL

Mr. Jason Smathers
MuckRock News
Dept MR 8325
P. O. Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. F-14-00014

Dear Mr. Smathers:

This is in response to your letter of Friday, October 18, 2013, in which you requested, under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, a copy of:

All congressional communication in September and October of 2013 referencing the possibility of a government shutdown or the actual shutdown occurring from Oct 1-16, 2013. Please include records between 9/1/2013 and 10/31/2013 or through the date this request is processed. Please note, this is not a request for future documents, but a request to include documents generated while this request is pending the first major search for records, as the courts have allowed. Please include communication to or from any member of congress or anyone acting upon a member of congress such as their staff member. Further, please include all communication from or on behalf of congressional committees, subcommittees, etc.

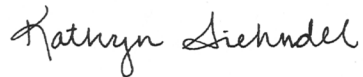
The United States Patent and Trademark Office identified no records responsive to your request.

Since the cost associated with processing this request was less than \$20.00, the processing fee is waived. See 37 C.F.R. § 102.11(d)(4).

You have the right to appeal this initial decision to the Deputy General Counsel, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. An appeal must be received within 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. See 37 C.F.R. § 102.10(a). The appeal must be in writing. You must include a copy of

your original request, this letter, and a statement of the reasons why the information should be made available and why this initial determination is in error. Both the letter and the envelope must be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Siehndel".

Kathryn Siehndel
USPTO FOIA Officer
Office of General Law